

„Bei uns ist immer was los!“ Feste in Rheinland

„FASCHING IN MÜNCHEN“ / „CARNIVAL SEASON IN MUNICH“

Beschreibung (description)

**Mad, Mad  
Time to  
Arrive in  
Germany**

**Fasching!**

Elsewhere in the world it's called Mardi Gras or Carnival. But in Germany it's Fasching —and from one end of the country to the other, parades, costumes, drinking, dancing, and celebrating is a way of life for the few weeks before Ash Wednesday.

But it is perhaps in Germany that the celebration finds its true home. Germans, who drink prodigious amounts of beer during normal times, view Fasching as an excuse to drink abnormal amounts.

Each year, certain countries throw themselves into an annual pre-Spring orgy, loosely tied to the Christian tradition of Lent, but actually an excuse for rich and poor alike to have a high old time in the streets, in pubs and saloons, and in bed. Brazil's *carnaval* is the most famous of these blowoffs; so is Mardi Gras in New Orleans — less famous, but no less wild, is Fasching in Germany.

#### CARNIVAL TIME IN GERMANY

It's New Year's Eve, Halloween and Mardi Gras all rolled into one, a spirit of fantasy that ignites the imagination of entire cities and at its peak is a kaleidoscope of confetti, masquerade balls and parades. It happens every winter in Germany and they call it "Fasching", "Karneval" or "Fastnacht".

This celebration isn't as familiar to Americans as the malty autumn spectacle, Munich's Oktoberfest, but this isn't due to any lack of enthusiasm on the part of the participants.